

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 251041)

RESOLUTION

Recognizing, honoring and celebrating Shirley Chisholm on her birthday, this November 30th.

WHEREAS, Shirley Chisholm was born to immigrants from Barbados and Guyana on November 30, 1924 in Brooklyn, New York and passed away on January 1, 2005, in Ormond Beach, Florida. She started her career as a nursery schoolteacher and earned her master's in early childhood education from Columbia University; and

WHEREAS, In 1968, Chisholm became the first Black woman elected to Congress. Known as "Fighting Shirley" with a resonant "Unbought and Unbossed" campaign slogan, Chisholm pulled off an electoral upset first in her primary, in which she defeated a sitting State Senator, and then in the general, when she won against a more well-known, Republican-backed opponent by a 2-1 margin. Congresswoman Chisholm then spent 7 terms serving the New York 12th Congressional District, introducing more than 50 pieces of legislation including helping to create SNAP and fighting for legalization of abortion access and the reproductive healthcare continuum of care; and

WHEREAS, As a co-founder of the Congressional Black Caucus, the National Women's Political Caucus, the National Political Congress of Black Women, and the National Organization for Women, Chisholm achieved national recognition and spotlight. She became the first woman and the first Black person to seek the Presidency in 1972 and survived three assassination attempts during her campaign. She declared herself the candidate of the people, and worked to usher in a new era of American politics; and

WHEREAS, Chisholm broke down barriers and created space for equity in an environment entirely hostile to progress. She was known for her remarkable wisdom and her ability to marry political philosophy to on-the-ground change, remarking that in her era of politics, the opportunity for change was emerging: "The door is not yet open, but it is ajar," and it is on the rising generation of change-making leaders to realize the dream of equity that Shirley Chisholm worked her entire life to advance; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLUTION NO. 251041 continued

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby recognizes, honors and celebrates Shirley Chisholm on her birthday, this November 30th.

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RESOLUTION NO. 251041 continued

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twentieth day of November, 2025.

Kenyatta Johnson
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Brooks

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Brooks, Phillips, Gauthier, Thomas, Landau, Lozada and O'Rourke